

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD1328**Title: Air Quality – European funding and other arrangements (amendments to MD1314)****Executive Summary:**

In February 2014 the Mayor approved MD1314 which approved the GLA's participation in the Joint Air Quality Initiative (JOAQUIN) project. This Mayoral Decision authorised the Executive Director for Development, Enterprise and Environment to revise the proposed budget allocations and approve the receipt of and allocation of any additional funding secured from JOAQUIN. This Director Decision approves the receipt and allocation of additional funding and the revision of the allocation of funding.

Decision:

That the Executive Director:

1. Approves the receipt of up to an additional £60,000 of funding from JOAQUIN, taking the total to be received to £227,000.
2. Allocates this additional funding and amends the original allocation of funding included in MD1314 as set out in section 2 below. This includes providing funding to extend for one year a fixed term Grade 8 post (funded through JOAQUIN) to support the delivery of the GLA's participation in the JOAQUIN project and other air quality related matters.

AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities. It has my approval.

Name: Fiona Fletcher-Smith**Position:** Executive Director, Development, Enterprise and Environment**Signature:****Date:**

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 JOAQUIN is an EU-funded cooperation project supported by the INTERREG IVB North West Europe programme. The aim of the project is to support health-oriented air quality policies in Europe. To achieve this, the project provides policy makers with information on the regional air pollution situation (e.g. measurements of emerging health relevant pollutants) and provides them with evidence to support the implementation of best-practice measures to strengthen current air quality policies.
- 1.2 JOAQUIN now has 15 partners from Belgium, The Netherlands, France and the UK, including: Flemish Environment Agency (Belgium), City of Antwerp (Belgium), IRCEL (Belgium), Flemish Agency for Care and Health (Belgium), Ecole des Ingénieurs de la Ville de Paris (France), ATMO Nord-Pas-de-Calais (France); Public Health Service of Amsterdam (Netherlands), National Institute for Health and the Environment (Netherlands), Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (Netherlands), Provincie Noord-Holland (Netherlands), University of Brighton, University of Leicester, Leicester City Council, airTEXT and the Greater London Authority.

Initial funding

- 1.3 JOAQUIN's focus on public health and sharing best practice about high impact regional measures in broadly comparable cities was a good fit with the Mayor's strategic objectives for air quality, as set out in his Mayor's Air Quality Strategy. Accordingly, working with the airTEXT consortium (which comprises all the London boroughs), the Greater London Authority submitted a joint London bid to join JOAQUIN in early 2013.
- 1.4 Initially the GLA was to receive £167,000 from the JOAQUIN project with a further £43,913 to be received on behalf of (and transferred back to) the London airTEXT consortium.

JOAQUIN underspend and additional resources for the GLA

- 1.5 The GLA has also been advised by the JOAQUIN project that they have an underspend which can be allocated to GLA projects. IPB and MD1314 approved delegating approval for the receipt of any additional funding and approval of the detailed arrangements to the Executive Director of Development, Environment and Enterprise.
- 1.6 The JOAQUIN project is also seeking to extend by a further six months to give additional time to some of the partners to complete projects, activities, claim back funding and report back. This means that there would be additional flexibility provided to the GLA to spend the funding received from JOAQUIN in the 2016/2017 financial year.

Reallocation of funding

- 1.7 Reflecting this additional funding, new opportunities and changed priorities it has been necessary to reallocate some of the funding received from JOAQUIN. These changes are set out below.

2. Proposed changes to funding allocations set out in MD1314 to reflect additional funding and other changes

Project	Previously allocated GLA funding from match (CAF2 funding from 13/14)	Original proposed JOAQUIN funding allocation in MD1314	Revised JOAQUIN funding allocation	Why a change has been made (if applicable)	Expected outcomes
Project activity					
Cleaner Air Zones at Schools	£100,000 for seven schools in City, Camden, Hillingdon and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.	£25,000	£77,500	The GLA is currently developing a new schools programme to build on earlier pilots. JOAQUIN funding will be used to support this work, including procuring consultancy support. As a first step opinion research will be undertaken to understand the potential effectiveness of a number of targeted measures to raise awareness, reduce emissions and reduce exposure at schools and amongst students. Depending on the results of this research, consultancy support may be procured to further develop, trial, implement and monitor these targeted interventions.	A new schools programme including a business case, to be linked to the Mayor's Air Quality Fund or other funding sources.
Cleaner Air Champions	£35,000 for initial trial in Havering, Redbridge and Hackney		£0	Funding to extend the Cleaner Air Champion programme has been provided to interested boroughs through the Mayor's Air Quality Fund, a second round of which will shortly open. There is no longer a need to provide this funding from the JOAQUIN funding, which can now be better targeted to support key Mayoral priorities.	N/A
Breathe Better Together (formerly Campaigns Days) / public communications project	£25,000 with match-funding from Defra, boroughs, airTEXT and Mayor's Air Quality Fund	£25,000	£10,000	Breathe Better Together has been successfully launched. Due to changes in the phasing of the marketing campaign less funding is required from JOAQUIN and will be covered instead by other sources.	N/A

Project	Previously allocated GLA funding from match (CAF2 funding from 13/14)	Original proposed JOAQUIN funding allocation in MD1314	Revised JOAQUIN funding allocation	Why a change has been made (if applicable)	Expected outcomes
Barts NHS Trust air quality and public health project	£25,000	£10,000	£0	No additional funding was required for the completion of the project and the delivery of the committed outcomes.	N/A
Wrapping of 10 air quality monitoring stations in high profile locations as part of awareness raising campaign about what air quality monitoring is for and where members of the public can find AQ data/airTEXT etc	£0	£10,000	Unchanged (£10,000)	N/A	N/A
Contribution to Cleaner Air for London / Breathe Better Together website set-up/running costs	£15,000 (plus borough contributions)	£7,000	Unchanged (£7,000)	N/A	N/A
Contribution to costs of joint GLA/City of London Mansion House air quality event (via grant to City of London)	£0	£0	£13,000	This change was previously approved under DD1254.	N/A
Sub-total	£200,000	£92,000	£120,000	N/A	N/A
Staffing costs					
Fixed term contract for Band 8 FTE for 1 year	N/A	£60,000 (includes other costs, e.g. NI, pension etc)	2014-15 cost was £34,000 2015-16 will be £46,000	MD1314 overstated the expected staff costs. This saving and the additional funding received means that we can continue this post for an additional year.	Reimbursed staff time for participating in JOAQUIN project, as well as delivering key requirements of project

Project	Previously allocated GLA funding from match (CAF2 funding from 13/14)	Original proposed JOAQUIN funding allocation in MD1314	Revised JOAQUIN funding allocation	Why a change has been made (if applicable)	Expected outcomes
			2016-17 to 30 June 2016 will be £11,500 = £92,000		membership. Also supports Mayor's broader objectives for air quality by increasing air quality staffing from 2.5 FTE to 3.5 FTE.
Sub-total	N/A	£60,000	£92,000	N/A	N/A
Administrative costs					
Travel for Reference Board meetings	N/A	£10,000	Unchanged (£10,000)	N/A	N/A
Auditing costs	N/A	£5,000	£7,500	MD1314 underestimated the costs of putting in place First Level Audit Control. This change reflects the outcome of a competitive procurement.	Necessary requirement for being able to claim money from JOAQUIN.
Sub-total	N/A	£15,000	£17,500	N/A	N/A
TOTAL		£167,000	£227,000	N/A	N/A
Grants to London JOAQUIN partners (London Borough of Islington as Chair of airTEXT consortium)					
airTEXT consortium	N/A	Up to £43,913 (depending on match funding provided by airTEXT consortium and available JOAQUIN funding)	Unchanged (£43,913)	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	N/A	£43,913	£43,913	N/A	N/A

Revised expected total to be claimed from JOAQUIN by GLA: £227,000
Expected income to be claimed from JOAQUIN by airTEXT: Up to £43,913
Expected total income from JOAQUIN (to be received through GLA): £270,913

Note: due to fluctuations in exchange rates these values may change but costs will be contained within the allocated funding.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 There is currently significant exposure of the London population to air pollution. Although this exposure is predicted to decline significantly by 2020, current modelling results show that in 2020 there will still be more than 300,000 people living in locations with average NO₂ levels above the EU legal limit value. In contrast, average concentrations of particles (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) were, by 2010, already within EU Limit Values for the annual average concentrations.
- 3.2 Populations living in the most deprived areas are on average currently more exposed to poor air quality than those in less deprived areas. 51% of the Lower Super Output Area (LSOAs) within the most deprived 10% of London have concentrations above the NO₂ EU limit value. This is in contrast to 1% above the NO₂ EU limit value in the 10% least deprived areas.
- 3.3 In developing and designing this programme we have worked with the London boroughs and other stakeholders to develop our proposals. Raising awareness about air pollution and the provision of alerts services for vulnerable Londoners explicitly reflects and responds to health inequalities. In shaping our interventions with schools, a prioritisation based on exposure identified above will ensure that limited resources are targeted in such a way that they both tackle air pollution while also reducing social and health inequality.

4. Other considerations

a) Key risks and issues

- 4.1 No additional funding is required from the GLA to secure this additional funding from JOAQUIN.
- 4.2 Additional staff time will be required to meet the obligations of the JOAQUIN project (presenting at conferences, reference board meetings, reports etc); however, it is proposed to continue the funding for a Grade 8 staff member on a fixed term contract for a further year paid for from the JOAQUIN funding to compensate the GLA for the time invested and ensure other GLA air quality priorities are not under resourced.
- 4.3 The GLA will need to maintain arrangements to have access to "First Level Control" audit services. This can be achieved by procuring specialist accountancy services, which is budgeted for in the JOAQUIN funding.

b) Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.4 The Mayor's manifesto set out his commitment to continue improving air quality in London. The success of the first Clean Air Fund was highlighted. CAF2/3 continues this innovative approach and supports the Mayor's preferred approach of working with Government and London boroughs to deliver improvements for London.

Mayoral strategies

- **Mayor's Air Quality Strategy (MAQS):**

- **Policy 3:** Identifying priority locations and improving air quality through a package of local measures
- **Policy 4:** Reducing emissions from public transport, including buses
- **Policy 12:** Raising public awareness of air quality issues
'Develop a central air quality website for London on the GLA website, which will include data, technical information and advice on how to improve air quality.'
- **Policy 14:** The Mayor will assist boroughs in carrying out the exercise of their statutory duty to improve air quality in London.
- **Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS):**
 - **Proposal 92:** Reducing emissions from public transport, including buses
 - **Proposal 94:** Introducing targeted local measures at poor air quality priority locations to reduce emissions and improve local air quality.
- **Mayor's Health Inequality Strategy (MHIS):**
 - **Commitment 22:** Improve the quality of London's existing homes and neighbourhoods, especially in those areas with the poorest levels of health.

c) Impact assessment and consultation

- 4.5 No formal consultation or impact assessment has been undertaken for these projects. However, they are linked to Policy 3 (Local Measures) of the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy, which was subject to formal public and stakeholder consultation. Furthermore, the projects below are an evolution of the Clean Air Fund, which was referenced in the Mayor's manifesto.
- 4.6 Key stakeholders include: participating boroughs, participating schools and third-party organisations, with whom the GLA will work to deliver specific components of these programmes. GLA has been working closely with the partner boroughs and other stakeholders consulting with them on arrangements for the programme. This will continue during implementation. There will also be interest from the broader air quality community and we will partner with Air Pollution Research in London (APRIL) to ensure the benefits of the programmes are properly and robustly evaluated. This will support wider roll-out in future years if the projects are successful.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Director's approval is being sought for the receipt of up to an additional £60,000 of funding from JOAQUIN, taking the total to be received to £227,000. A revised allocation of this funding is also being requested, including the provision of funding to extend for one year a fixed term Grade 8 post (funded through JOAQUIN) to support the delivery of the GLA's participation in the JOAQUIN project and other air quality related matters.
- 5.2 In addition to the funding from JOAQUIN by GLA (£227,000) there will also be up to £43,913 income to be claimed from JOAQUIN by airTEXT so the total expected income from JOAQUIN (to be received through the GLA) will be £270,913. The airTEXT funding is to be paid to airTEXT consortium's lead partner (currently London Borough of Islington) once the GLA have been reimbursed for this amount.
- 5.3 Spend of the funding is expected to be profiled as follows;
- 2013-14 - £7,000
 - 2014-15 - £46,600
 - 2015-16 - £161,900 and £43,913 for airTEXT
 - 2016-17 - £11,500

- 5.4 Any changes to this proposal will be subject to further approval via the Authority's decision-making process. All requisite budget adjustments will be made.
- 5.5 The Environment Team within the Development, Enterprise & Environment Directorate will be responsible for managing this contract.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1 Under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (the 'Act') the GLA, after appropriate consultation, is entitled to do anything that will further the promotion, within Greater London, of economic development and wealth creation, social development and the improvement of the environment.
- 6.2 Furthermore, section 34 of the Act allows the GLA, to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any functions of the GLA. In this case, the receipt of an additional £60,000 funding from JOAQUIN, the allocation of that funding and the revision of the original allocations of funding among a range of air-quality-related projects may be viewed as being calculated to facilitate and conducive and incidental to the improvement of the environment within Greater London.
- 6.3 The officers have set out at paragraphs 4.5 and 4.6 what consultation has been undertaken prior to seeking this approval.

7. Investment & Performance Board

- 7.1 This item was considered at the IPB Board meeting on 3rd October 2013.
- 7.2 The IPB approved in principle the GLA joining the Joint Air Quality Initiative for North West Europe as lead partner for the London bid and approved the delegation of authority to the Executive Director - Development, Enterprise and Environment to approve the receipt of and allocate any additional funding awarded by JOAQUIN and revise the proposed budget allocations, as appropriate.

8. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of expert support for exposure modelling and monitoring to commence	May 2015
Additional funding to be obtained as part of third JOAQUIN claim. Claim to be submitted in:	July 2015
Extension of existing Grade 8 JOAQUIN officer post to commence	July 2015
Project Closure	July 2016

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Note: This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO**

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date:

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Elliot Treharne has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Patrick Feehily has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

Financial and Legal advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature

Date